

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /090 W
-----220659Z 046317 /10

R 211500Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5472
INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
URUEHDT/USUN NEW YORK 1244

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1070

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, RH
SUBJ: UANC SUPPORTER FAVORS OWEN PROPOSAL FOR A RHODESIAN
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

REF: (A) LUSAKA 0942; (B) LUSAKA 1057 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: A LUSAKA-BASED UANC SUPPORTER APRIL 20 EXPRESSED
SUPPORT FOR OWEN'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND
U.S. PARTICIPATION. PRINCIPAL QUESTION IS WHETHER PF WILL
ATTEND OR NOT. IF CONFERENCE NOT CONVENED, HE BELIEVES BRITISH
LIKELY TO WITHDRAW IN WAKE OF WHICH PRESSURE FOR AN INTERNAL
SETTLEMENT WOULD BUILD. END SUMMARY.

1. LUSAKA-BASED UANC SUPPORTER ENOCH DUMBUTSHENA, LEGAL
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ADVISER TO BISHOP MUZOREWA, CAME TO EMBASSY APRIL 20 FOR A
VISA TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES ON PERSONAL BUSINESS IN MID-MAY.
IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF DUMBUTSHENA EXPRESSED APPROVAL
OF OWEN'S PROPOSAL TO CALL A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. HE
SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY A UANC ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICIAL APRIL 19 ABOUT HIS PARTICIPATION IN A UANC MEETING
IN SALISBURY IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE TO FORMULATE THE UANC

POSITION FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE. WHILE THE UANC WOULD PREFER TO HOLD ITS MEETING IN SALISBURY, THIS WAS NOT CERTAIN AT THIS TIME AND WOULD DEPEND ON THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. DUMBUTSHENA SAID THAT HIS ROLE AT SUCH A CONFERENCE WOULD NOT BE AS A CONSTITUTIONAL DRAFTSMAN, BUT RATHER TO INSURE THAT THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WOULD PRESERVE THE STATUS OF THE UANC. HE VOICED NO OBJECTION TO A U.S. ROLE IN A CONFERENCE AND NOTED THAT SMITH SEEMED TO FAVOR US. PARTICIPATION.

2. ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTING TO A SETTLEMENT, DUBUTSHENA WAS GUARDED IN HIS PREDICTIONS; BUT MADE CLEAR THAT HE FELT WHETHER OR NOT THE PF ATTENDED, THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD. DUBUTSHENA IN SOME OF HIS COMMENTS INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT THE PF WOULD ATTEND, BUT HE DID EXPRESS DOUBTS THAT THIS WOULD PROVE TO BE THE CASE. HE SPECULATED THAT SINCE THE PODGORNÝ VISIT A NEW AND HARDER STRATEGY HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY THE PF, WEDDING IT MORE TIGHTLY TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE. HE CHARACTERIZED NKOMO AS DEEP DOWN BEING WILLING TO GO TO A CONFERENCE, BUT NOW, BECAUSE OF THE FRONT'S PUBLIC POSITION AND FRONTLINE PRESSURE, HE IS IN A MUCH MORE CONSTRICTED MANEUVERING POSITION. MUGABE HE BELIEVES TO BE MORE NEGATIVE TOWARDS A CONFERENCE BECAUSE EITHER WAY, VICTORY THROUGH VIOLENCE OR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WOULD NOT PUT MUGABE IN CONTROL. MUGABE CAN'T WIN THROUGH ELECTIONS AND HE COULD BE PUSHED ASIDE IF FORCE RESOLVES THE SITUATION. TO WIN ALL THE CHIPS MUGABE MUST BIDE HIS TIME UNTIL THE PRESENT CONFIGURATION OF PLAYERS HAS BROKEN UP AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES PRESENT THEMSELVES. THE MAIN THRUST OF DUMBUTSHENA'S COMMENTS WAS THAT IF THE PF DID ATTEND A CONFERENCE THEIR ROLE COULD WELL BE AN OBSTRUCTIVE

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ONE SINCE ANY SOLUTION INVOLVING ELECTIONS IS NOT IN THE FRONT'S FAVOR.

3. WHEN HE WAS REMINDED OF HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT ANOTHER BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD END THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS (REFTEL A) DUMBUTSHENA SAID THAT IF THE CURRENT OWEN PROPOSALS DID NOT RESULT IN A CONFERENCE, THIS WOULD IN EFFECT MARK THE END OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. HE BELIEVES THAT IF THE OWEN EFFORT FAILS, THE BRITISH WILL ABANDON THEIR EFFORTS. IN THIS EVENTUALITY THE PRESSURE ON MUZOREWA TO OPT FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WITH SMITH WILL MOUNT AND WILL BE IRRESISTIBLE. SUCH A SETTLEMENT COULD WELL SUCCEED, BUT MUZOREWA WILL NOT GO THIS ROUTE UNTIL THE BRITISH EFFORTS HAVE RUN THEIR COURSE.

4. COMMENTING ON REPORTS OF THE RHODESIA FRONT (RF) SPECIAL CONGRESS'S AUTHORIZATION FOR SMITH TO NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT (REFTEL B) DUMBUTSHENA OBSERVED THAT THE WORDING OF THE FIRST RESOLUTION WAS INTERESTING. HE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THE REFERENCE TO GUARANTEEING RIGHTS WOULD HAVE BEEN PHASED IN TERMS

OF THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES, NOT ALL GROUPS. HE SAW LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE SUGGESTION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS BE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARTY (RF) PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES. HE REMARKED THAT SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THE LAND TENUFE AMENDMENT ACT THE FRONT'S BASIC POLICY HAD BEEN BORKEN AND THAT REFERENCE TO RF PARTY PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES MEANT LITTLE NOW. HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT THE ACTION OF THE SPECIAL CONGRESS WAS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT REPRESENTED A CHANGE IN POSITION OF THE RF WHITES SINCE THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME SMITH'S POLITICAL FOLLOWERS AS A PARTY HAD PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE NEED FOR A SETTLEMENT.

5. CURRENTLY UANC FOLLOWERS ARE PUZZLED BY REPORTS THAT NYERERE HAS REQUESTED MUZOREWA TO COME TO DAR WHEN HE RETURNS FROM THE UNITED STATES. DUMBUTSHENA WAS INTRIGUED BY NYERERE'S REPORTED REQUEST TO SEE THE BISHOP. AS A HARSH CRITIC OF THE FRONTLINE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PF, DUMBUTSHENA MAY BE HOPING THAT NYERERE'S DESIRE TO SEE THE BISHOP MEANS HE IS WAVERING
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ON THE FRONTLINE'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE PF.
LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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